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200CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~ CONTROL/US OFFICIALSCOUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORTTOPIC 18th Inf Regt in Stribro

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

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1. The 18th Inf Regt, Utvar No 1102, was subordinate to the 11th Inf Div in Pilsen, (N 50/L 04), prior to the end of July 1950. The regiment was commanded by General Frantisek Patera. The regiment was also called Ostrozensky, its previous surname Loirsky having been dropped in February 1950. (1)
2. The 35th Inf Regt in Domazlice (N 50/P 70) and Klatovy (N 50/L 00) also belonged to the 11th Inf Div. (2) The regiment had a new, unidentified surname which had superseded the surname Foligno.
3. It was learned from officers that the Hq 13th Inf Div was stationed in Karlovy Vary (N 51/P 69), and that an infantry regiment was located in Marianske Lazne (N 50/P 56). (3)
4. The regimental headquarters and regimental units of the 18th Inf Regt were located in Stribro (N 50/P 74); the I Bn in Tachov (N 50/P 54); the II Bn with its headquarters and the 9th and 10th Inf Cos in Plana (N 50/P 55); the 6th, 7th and 8th Inf Cos in Chodova Plana (N 50/P 55); the III Bn in Bor (N 50/P 63); and the Repl Tng Bn in Stribro. The equipment storehouses of the regiment were in Pilsen, presumably in the city sector of Dory. (1)
5. Colonel (General Staff) Jaroslav Suchomel was CO 18th Inf Regt and Lieutenant Colonel Frantisek Palacek deputy CO. The other officers of the regiment included Staff Captain Ferdinand Poloch, chief of staff; Senior Lieutenant Vanek, (fnu), political officer; Staff Captain Josef Zahradnik, DOZ officer; Captain Sulc, (fnu), mobilization officer; Captain Trminek, (fnu), regimental physician; Staff Captain Moravec, (fnu), supply officer; Captain Kutka, (fnu), maintenance officer; Staff Captain Jan Holec, motor transport officer formerly DOZ officer; Staff Captain Doucha, (fnu), CO of Hq Co; Staff Captain Cihelka, (fnu), CO of Tech Co; Staff Captain Murka, (fnu), CO of Gas-Defense Plat; Staff Captain Kren, (fnu), CO of the component artillery unit; Staff Captain Augustin Nekel, CO of I Bn; Staff Captain Dobes, (fnu), CO of II Bn; Lieutenant Colonel Skrbek, (fnu), CO of III Bn; Major Jirak, (fnu), CO of the Repl Tng Bn; Captain Kropelka, (fnu),

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CO of 5th Co; Staff Captain Picek, (fmu), CO of 7th Co; and Staff Captain Adolf Pondelicek, CO of 9th Co. (4)

Organization

6. The regiment was organized into the Hq Co, the SMG Co, the Tech Co with Engr Plat, the Sig Plat and the Special Warfare (Gas-Defense) Plat, an artillery unit, the Rcn Co, the Replacement Training Battalion, and three infantry battalions. The I Bn consisted of the 1st, 2d and 3d Inf Cos, the 4th MG Co and 5th Hv Wpn Co. The II Bn consisted of the 6th, 7th and 8th Inf Cos, the 9th MG Co and 10th Hv Wpn Co. The III Bn consisted of the 11th, 12th and 13th Inf Cos, the 14th MG Co and 15th Hv Wpn Co. The heavy weapons companies were organized into a gun platoon and a mortar platoon, which were scheduled to be expanded to two independent companies in October 1950. (5)

Equipment and Armament

7. The engineer platoon of the Tech Co had about 300 mines, some German mine detectors and some rubber boats. The signal platoon had German telephone and radio equipment. It was said that in case of war each infantry company would be provided with a radio set with a range of from 8 to 10 km and each battalion with several radio sets with a 15 to 20 km range. The gas-defense platoon had gas protective clothing and a stock of chlorinated lime. The soldiers also practiced with the Molotov cocktail.
8. The artillery unit of the regiment was equipped with three 120-mm mortars and three short-barreled 76.2-mm guns.
9. The battalions were armed with German rifles, Czech model 26 and model 37 submachine guns, Soviet model 42 45-mm guns, German 82-mm mortars and bazookas.

Training

10. On 1 October of every year about 80 recruits arrived for each infantry company, about 70 recruits for each machine gun company, and about 100 recruits for each heavy weapons company. The recruits underwent basic training from 1 October to 15 November, trained at squad level from 15 November to 31 December, at platoon level from January to June, and at company level at the Kaiserwald troop training grounds from July to August. The training at Kaiserwald was done at the level of wartime-strength companies, composed of several placeholder-strength companies and drafted reservists. The best riflemen of all companies of the regiment were sent to Dor to attend a sharpshooter course directed by Staff Captain Cech, (fmu). Firing practice with heavy infantry weapons was held annually at the Kaiserwald troop training grounds in April and May. Firing with the 82-mm mortars was done with Soviet-type 82-mm shells. It was said that mortar ammunition was being manufactured in Czechoslovakia.
11. The reconnaissance company was trained at various places in the border area. During major field exercises all reconnaissance companies within a division were concentrated and assigned missions directly by the divisions headquarters.
12. Training of the NCO candidates lasted from 15 November to 20 February. The courses for NCO candidates of infantry and machine gun companies were held in Stribro, those for the gun platoons in Plana under the command of Staff Captain Huta, (fmu), from Domazlice, those for the mortar platoons in Karlovy Vary, and those for the signal units in Domazlice.
13. All regular officers of the regiment received tactical indoctrination once a week in Stribro. The exclusive topic was defense in width. The regimental commander and some officers of the staff attended a tactical course of the division in Pilsen in the fall of 1950. The exclusive topic there was also defense in width.

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14. Reservists were called up for a three-week training period in May 1950. Another reservist training period was scheduled for August 1950.
15. Reserve officer candidates attended NCO courses from mid-February to mid-September. After that followed a course at reserve officer candidate schools for infantry and machine gun units in Liberec (O 51/G 16), and, for artillery and mortar units in Milovice (O 51/G 00).
16. Reserve officers were called up, in several contingents, for a four-week training period.

State of Preparedness

17. Operational plans of the II Bn for border defense indicated that SNB units and the local militiamen were the first to intercept an attacking enemy by establishing pockets of resistance close to the border. The main effort of resistance was to be made by the 18th Inf Regt with its three battalions employed in a line. The sector of the regiment extended to the right as far as Trstenice (N 50/P 55)-Chodovsky Smelctal (N 50/P 45), where the neighboring unit was to be the 50th Inf Regt of the 13th Div in Karlovy Vary. The neighboring unit to the left was to be the 35th Inf Regt. The defensive position had to be occupied within three hours after the alert. Reservists would not be called up in that case.
18. Defense installations were being constructed in the border area with three obstacle lines running along the border. There were timber road blocks across lanes and roads at the border, lines of chevaux-de-frise, 500 to 2,000 meters from the border, and a third obstacle line blocking the important road junctions.

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Miscellaneous Data

21. Two types of flame throwers were subjects of instruction during a course at the military academy. They were German flame thrower of 10 to 15-liter capacity with a range of about 30 meters, and "Fugas" model flame thrower with an alleged range of 100 to 150 meters. (6)
22. An acquaintance of source said that an improved version of the bazooka with a range of several hundred meters was being tested in Milovice. (7)
23. In June 1950 the Ministry of National Defense decreed that units stationed in the border area were no longer permitted to detach personnel to labor brigades in order not to impair their state of preparedness. (8)

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Comments.

- (1) The information essentially substantiates previous data on the 18th Inf Regt, and other components of the 11th Inf Div. 25X1
- (2) Reports received prior to May 1950 did not mention any elements of the 35th Inf Regt in Klatovy.
- (3) The Hq 13th Inf Brig is located in Karlovy Vary and the 50th Inf Bn in Marianske Lazne. They were incorrectly identified as a division and a regiment. 25X1
- (4) There had been no essential turnover in officer personnel since May 1950.
- (5) All previous information on the regimental headquarters units has been conflicting. The 18th Inf Regt seems to have only one component artillery unit while other Czechoslovakian infantry regiments have an infantry gun or AT gun company and a heavy mortar unit. Although no confirmatory information has been received, it is possible that a gas-defense platoon may be an organic part of the technical companies.
- (6) Probably a stationary model or one transported on a vehicle since it is doubted that there are hand-carried flame throwers with such a range.
- (7) Such tests were mentioned in a report of early 1949. 25X1
- (8) A large percentage of the regimental personnel were employed in labor brigades in early 1949.

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